The categories are:

Overall accessibility: Ratings are based on the ability of all citizens to access the site with relative ease. A rating of indicates easy access for all citizens including those with disabilities. A rating of indicates extremely difficult access with long hikes or steep banks that require some skill to access.

Bank fishing opportunities: Ratings are based on the length, height, steepness and overall quality of the bank areas. A rating of N/A means bank fishing is not allowed.

Wading opportunities: Ratings are based on the length, depth and overall ease of wading in the stream. A rating of N/A means wading is not advised or allowed due to hazardous conditions.

Small boat /canoe launching access: Ratings are based on the quality of the ramp or ease of access to the site. A rating of indicates a paved ramp that can be accessed with an automobile. A rating of indicates no ramp and extreme conditions to carry a canoe to a given site. A rating of N/A means canoe launching is not advised or allowed

Parking: Ratings are based on the size, quality and distance from actual site. A rating of N/A means no parking is available.

Aesthetic quality: Ratings are based on the natural beauty of each site. A rating of indicates a site surrounded by nature with little noise pollution. A rating of indicates the site is located within a city or near some form of industry that creates noise pollution.

All locations described in this brochure are designated public access points. Some adjacent property upstream and downstream is private. Please respect the rights of property owners and do not trespass. So that these streams can provide fishing opportunities for future generations, please respect the environment.

In addition to this booklet, several other information resources exist for the outdoor enthusiast:

- For state park maps: park offices or online at http://ils.unc.edu/parkproject/ncparks.html.
- For streams and state parks in North Carolina: The North Carolina Atlas and Gazetteer, 6th edition, published by DeLorme.
- For descriptions of most streams described in this guide: Paddling Eastern North Carolina (2002) by Paul Ferguson.